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13281 U.S.P.T.O.

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February 23, 2004  
(Monday)

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: New Patent Application in U.S.  
Applicant(s): Yasunori YOKOTA  
Title: JOINT  
Atty's Docket: YOKOTA17

Sir:

Attached herewith is the above-identified application for Letters Patent including:

- Application Data Sheet
- Specification (25 pages), claims (3 pages) and abstract (1 page)
- 5 Sheets Drawings (Figures 1 - 10 )  
 FORMAL  Informal
- Declaration and Power of Attorney (2 page(s))  
 Newly executed  Copy from prior application no. \_\_\_\_\_
- Preliminary Amendment  
 Computer-readable Sequence Listing
- Supplemental Preliminary Amendment
- Information Disclosure Statement with SB/08A and 2 references
- Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 C.F.R. §1.27.
- A check (check no. \_\_\_\_\_) in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover:

10/782888.PTO  
22856 U.S.P.T.O.

022304

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13281 U.S.PTO

Credit Card Payment Form, PTO-2038, authorizing payment in the amount of \$770.00 to cover:  
 The filing fee calculated as follows (including any preliminary amendment for entry prior to calculation of the filing fee):

| CLAIMS AS FILED                        |              |              |       |                        |
|--|--------------|--------------|-------|------------------------|
| FOR                                    | NUMBER FILED | NUMBER EXTRA | RATE  | BASIC FEE<br>\$ 770.00 |
| TOTAL CLAIMS                           | 10 -20       | = 0          | x 18  |                        |
| INDEPENDENT CLAIMS                     | 1 -3         | = 0          | x 86  | --                     |
| [ ] Multiple Dependent Claim Presented |              |              | + 290 | --                     |
| [ ] Reduction of 1/2 for Small Entity  |              |              |       | \$ .00                 |
|  |              |              |       | TOTAL FILING FEE       |
|  |              |              |       | \$ 770.00              |

[ ] Any additional fee required by the filing of an enclosed preliminary or supplemental preliminary amendment (for entry after calculation of the filing fee) has been calculated as shown below:

|  | CLAIMS<br>REMAINING<br>AFTER<br>AMENDMENT | HIGHEST NO.<br>PREVIOUSLY<br>PAID FOR | PRESENT<br>EXTRA | RATE                   | CALCULATION |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| TOTAL                                  |   | -                                     | =                | x 18                   |             |
| INDEP.                                 |   | -                                     | =                | x 86                   |             |
| [ ] Multiple Dependent Claim Presented |   |                                       | + 290            |                        |             |
| [ ] Reduction by 1/2 for Small Entity  |   |                                       |                  |                        |             |
|  |   |                                       |                  | Total Additional Fee = |             |

[ ] Other Fees: \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Other Attachments: \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Return Receipt Postcard (in duplicate)

The following statements are applicable:

[ ] Applicant hereby requests that this application not be published pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §122(a). It is certified on behalf of applicant that the invention disclosed in the application has not been and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication of applications 18 months after filing.

The benefit under 35 USC §119 is claimed of the filing date of: Application No. 2002-043932 in Japan on February 21, 2003. A certified copy of said priority document is attached.

The present application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Appln. No. filed .

The present application is a [ ] Continuation [ ] Division [ ] Continuation-in-Part of prior Application No. \_\_\_, filed \_\_\_. Although this application is stated to be a CIP, applicant does not necessarily concede that any matter is presented in this application which is not present in the parent.

Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:  
[ ] --This is a continuation/division/continuation-in-part of copending parent application Serial No. \_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_.--  
[ ] --The present application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Appln. No. 60/\_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_.--  
[ ] --The present application is the national stage under 35 U.S.C. §371 of international application \_\_\_\_\_ which designated the United States[, which international application was published under PCT Article 21(2) in English].--

The application is (or will be) assigned to: Nippon Thompson Co., Ltd. whose address is 19-19, Takanawa 2-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Incorporation By Reference. The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied herewith, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

A signed statement deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application is attached.

Certain documents were previously cited or submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office in the following prior application \_\_\_, which is relied upon under 35 USC §120. Applicants identify these documents by attaching hereto a form PTO-1449 listing these documents, and request that they be considered and made of record in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(d). Per Section 1.98(d), copies of these documents need not be filed in this application.

As in the parent application \_\_\_\_\_, please associate the present application with **Customer No. 001444** and recognize only the practitioners associated therewith.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-4035:  
 Any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR §1.16.  
 Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR §1.17.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees, based on any paper filed during the pendency of this application or any CPA thereof, to effect any amendment, petition, or other action requested in said paper or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-4035:  
 Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR §1.17.  
 The issue fee set in 37 CFR §1.18 at or before mailing the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 CFR §1.311(b).  
 Any filing fees under 37 CFR §1.16 for presentation of extra claims.  
 If a paper is untimely filed in this or any CPA thereof by Applicant(s), the Commissioner is hereby petitioned under 37 CFR. §1.136(a) for the minimum extension of time required to make said paper timely. In the event a petition for extension of time is made under the provisions of

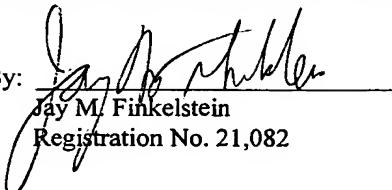
this paragraph, the Commissioner is hereby requested to charge any fee required under 37 CFR §1.17 to Deposit Account 02-4035.

[X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment of fees accompanying this paper to Deposit Account No. 02-4035.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.

By:

  
Jay M. Finkelstein  
Registration No. 21,082

JMF:gsk